

REMARKS

The Office Action dated January 11, 2008, and the Advisory Action dated April 29, 2008 have been received and carefully noted. The following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

By this Amendment, Claims 1, 4, and 6 have been amended and Claims 18-29 have been newly added. Support of these amendments can be found in the specification at, for example, page 7, lines 16-18 and Figs. 2 and 5. Claims 18-29 are the equivalents of Claims 4 and 6 and claims dependent thereon as original dependent through Claim 2. No new matter has been added. After entry of this Amendment, Claims 1-29 are currently pending and respectfully submitted for consideration.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for indicating allowable subject matter in claims 4-9 and 12-17. Claims 4 and 6 have been rewritten in independent form and new independent Claims 18-29 have been added that include allowable features recited in Claims 4 and 6 and claims dependent therefrom. After these amendments, Claims 4-9 and 12-29 are now in condition for allowance.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-3 and 10-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(b) as being unpatenable over Takenaka (JP '523) in view of Hiereth (US Patent 6,009,842). It is noted that Claim 1 has been amended to include the feature "wherein the other ends of the pair of link arms connected to the other end of the rocker arm are positioned on a line in an input direction from the valve-operating cam to the rocker arm." Neither

Takenaka nor Hiereth, when taken singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least such feature.

Accordingly to the present invention, the thickest portion of the rocker arm at the other end thereof is connected with a pair of link arms and their connected portions are on a line in an input direction from the cam to the rocker arm. Hence, the input from the cam can reliably be borne by the thickest portion of the rocker arm.

In Fig. 7 of Hiereth, the cam is in abutment against the circled portion at a longitudinally intermediate portion of the lever 10. On the other hand, the lever 9 is connected to the right end (27) of lever 10. There is no teaching of portion 27 being on a line in an input direction from the cam to the lever 10.

Accordingly, neither Takenaka nor Hiereth teaches or suggests that the other ends of the pair of link arms connected to the other end of the rocker arm are positioned on a line in an input direction from the valve-operating cam to the rocker arm, as recited in amended Claim 1. Therefore, it would not have been obvious for one skilled in the art to combine the rocker arm as taught by Hiereth with the device disclosed in Takenaka to achieve the valve-operating system of Claim 1 due to the above-mentioned defect of Hiereth.

Thus, amended Claim 1 is allowable over Takenaka in view of Hiereth.

For the similar reasons, Claims 2-3, 10, and 11 that depend from allowable Claim 1 are likewise allowable.

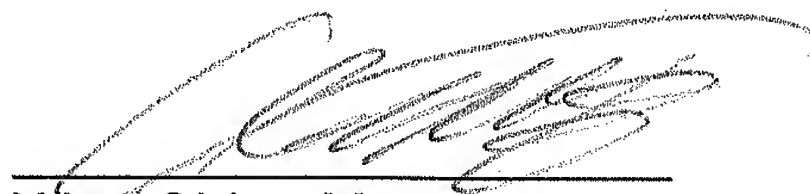
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of the outstanding rejections, allowance of the currently pending claims, and the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, **referencing Attorney Dkt. No. 107348-00449.**

Respectfully submitted,



Wan-Ching Montfort
Registration No. 56,127

Customer No. 004372

ARENT FOX LLP

1050 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 400

Washington, D.C. 20036-5339

Tel: (202) 857-6000

Fax: (202) 638-4810

CMM/CYM